REMARKS

Applicant has preliminarily amended the drawings, specification and claims to avoid possible 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections. Entry and consideration is requested. As Applicant is not aware of any prior which would anticipate or would render obvious the invention as defined by the claims, early allowance is respectfully requested.

A version of any replacement paragraphs, on separate pages from the amendment, marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraphs (underlining or bracketing) is also provided herewith in conformance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(b)(1)(iii).

A version of any amended claims, on separate pages from the amendment, marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the claims (underlining or bracketing) is also provided herewith in conformance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

A clean version (no underlining and bracketing) of the entire set of pending claims, on separate pages from the amendment, is also provided herewith as detailed in 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(3).

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact

one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 10, 2002

By: _____

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MARKED UP VERSION OF REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPHS IN CONFORMANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. 1.121(b)(1)(iii)

Paragraph starting at page 14, line 22 and ending at page 15, line 2

When the take-up DC torque motor 126 is driven, the take-up DC torque motor 126 rotates DC torque motor pinion gear, which, in turn, drives the two-stage intermediate gear 132. The two-stage intermediate gear 132 rotates on the non-rotatable shaft 136. The DC torque motor pinion gear drives the first gear 134 on the two-stage intermediate gear 132. The second gear 138 on the two-stage intermediate gear 132 drives the take-up gear 116 which is part of the ribbon take-up spindle 110. This raises (moves the [supply] take-up dancing arm 158 further out of the channel 150 -- [supply] take-up dancing arm 158 does not exit the channel 150)) the take-up dancing arm 158 back to its null position. As such, the used ribbon is wound up on ribbon take-up spindle 110.

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS IN CONFORMANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

1. (Once Amended) An apparatus for driving and tensioning a ribbon comprising:

a housing;

means for supplying a ribbon mounted on said housing;

supply dancer means for applying tension to the ribbon, said supply dancer means being positioned downstream of said supplying means, said supply dancer [assembly] means including a supply dancing arm pivotally mounted on said housing and a supply channel affixed to said housing, a portion of said supply dancing arm being capable of moving in and out of said supply channel;

a printhead mounted on said housing and positioned downstream of said supply dancer means;

take-up dancer means for applying tension to the ribbon, said take-up dancer means being positioned downstream of said printhead, said take-up dancer [assembly] means includes a take-up dancing arm pivotally mounted on said housing and a take-up channel affixed to said housing, a portion of said take-up dancing arm being capable of moving in and out of said take-up channel; and

means for taking up the ribbon mounted on said housing.

21. (Once Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim [1] 20, wherein said supply channel has first and second ends, and said supply dancer means further including a first supply idler roller rotatably attached to said housing and spaced from said first end of said supply channel a predetermined distance and a second supply idler roller rotatably attached to said housing and spaced from said second end of said supply channel a predetermined distance, and said take-up channel has first and second ends, said take-up dancer means further including a first take-up idler roller rotatably attached to said housing and spaced from said first end of said take-up channel a predetermined distance and a second take-up idler roller rotatably attached

to said housing and spaced from said second end of said take-up channel a predetermined distance.